

care system by finding them permanent, stable homes. Currently our foster care system serves over 400,000 children, with over 105,000 waiting to be adopted. LGBT families can play an important role in decreasing the number of children in care. Unfortunately, LGBT individuals and couples face discrimination in 31 states when they attempt to adopt or foster. Congress invests over \$7 billion in our child welfare system annually, yet we are allowing potential adoptive parents and foster families to be excluded to the detriment of children.

We should show our support of those children who are without families by passing HR 1681, the Every Child Deserves a Family Act. I introduced this bill to protect those families looking to foster or adopt children from discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status or on the basis of the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved.

It is the purpose of our foster care system to find children families who will love and cherish them. There should be no added burden for anyone based solely on their sexual orientation, marital status, or gender identity.

I would again like to acknowledge Alameda County for their commitment to children in search of families and to the families willing and able to adopt a child in need. I hope more counties will follow their inspiring lead.

RECOGNIZING WOODFILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Woodfill Elementary School, a 2011 National Blue Ribbon award winning educational institution in the Fourth Congressional District of Kentucky.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private institutions whose students achieve academic excellence or have made profound advancement in closing the gaps of achievement, especially among disadvantaged and minority students.

To be named a Blue Ribbon School is to join an elite group. Of over one hundred thirty thousand schools in the United States, just over 6,000 have received this honor since its creation by the Department of Labor in 1982.

Today, as we celebrate the accomplishment of this exceptional Kentucky institution, it is my hope that Woodfill Elementary School's leading example of hard work and growth encourage schools across the nation to strive for the same level of excellence.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending the students, teachers, and administration of Woodfill Elementary School for their devotion to the success of the youth of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the United States of America.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CORPORAL JOSE "DANIEL" GASCA

HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marine Corporal Jose "Daniel" Gasca of El Paso, TX. Corporal Gasca was driving an up-armored HUMVEE when it was hit by a control detonated IED in Fallujah, Iraq in September 2008. Corporal Gasca suffered spinal fractures, broken ribs, a ruptured spleen, and leg injuries so severe that both of his legs required amputation. Corporal Gasca, his wife, Angel, and their sons; 3 year old Mathew and newborn Eli, currently live in a non-handicapped home while Daniel continues his treatments and therapies at Walter Reed.

On November 10, 2011, Homes for Our Troops will provide Corporal Gasca with a brand new home at no cost. Corporal Gasca's new home will be specially adapted to accommodate his needs, allowing him to be more productive and independent. The work of Homes for Our Troops and the community of El Paso, Texas, is a great example of the appreciation we should show our brave men and women who have served our nation in uniform.

I extend my personal thanks and sincere appreciation to Corporal Gasca for his sacrifice made while protecting our freedom. We owe our veterans a huge amount of gratitude—particularly those who have been injured while serving their nation. As President Calvin Coolidge said, "The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENNIAL OF NAVAL AVIATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centennial of Naval Aviation and its service to the United States of America.

Throughout the last century, the men and women of the United States Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard who have heeded freedom's call have become America's front line of defense. Generation after generation of children from the Emerald Coast have watched our country's finest aviators overhead and dreamt of following in their footsteps. I am proud to say that the First Congressional District of Florida holds a special place in its heart for the Blue Angels and all who fly in our nation's defense.

Naval Air Station Pensacola, NAS Pensacola, welcomed its first aviation unit on January 20, 1914, less than three years after the Navy purchased its first planes. On December 7, 1917, Pensacola was designated as the first permanent U.S. Naval Air Station. It was America's sole Naval Air Station until World War I. In the ensuing years, tens of thousands of America's finest Naval Aviators have trained

at NAS Pensacola, including Neil Armstrong and Ted Williams. Today, all U.S. Naval Aviators begin their training at the Cradle of Naval Aviation.

From the first Naval Aviator, Lieutenant Theodore Ellyson, to the current class of flight students at NAS Pensacola, thousands of Naval Aviators have protected America's interests around the world and in outer space. Just like their predecessors from previous generations, today's students at NAS Pensacola go through rigorous training to serve on shore and at sea, at home and abroad, to protect the United States and support freedom wherever and whenever they are called. From combat patrols over Iraq and Afghanistan to relief missions in Haiti and around the world, Naval Aviation is a touchstone of America's naval might.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize Naval Aviation for its contributions during its first 100 years and to honor it as it takes flight in the next 100 years.

HONORING ROBERT ALAN DUGGAN

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 4, 2011

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary life of Robert Alan Duggan, and to mourn him upon his passing at the age of 46.

Born in Livonia, Michigan on February 23, 1965 to Patrick and Joan Duggan, Bob was a classmate and fellow graduate of the class of 1983 from Detroit Catholic Central High School. He went on to attend the Adrian College, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business/Broadcasting. While attending Adrian College he became a member of this nation's oldest and largest professional business fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi. Bob joined the Screen Actors Guild in 1997.

A true son of Livonia, Bob Duggan was born at St. Mary's Hospital, and there the incredibly benevolent heart that led him to donate more than 120 pints of blood to the Red Cross in his lifetime stopped beating. Bob was a long time member of St. Aidan Catholic Church, where he had served as an altar boy and faithfully attended every Sunday. He was a realtor who loved the Detroit area, and an avid sports fan.

Regrettably, on November 3, 2011, Robert Duggan passed from this earthly world to his eternal reward. He is survived by his beloved parents, Patrick and Joan, and his brothers Michael, Daniel, James, and Timothy. Bob was a devoted uncle, and will long be remembered by 13 nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Duggan is remembered as a dedicated son, devoted brother, loving uncle, and a true friend. Bob was a man who deeply treasured his family, friends, community, and his country. Today, as we bid Robert Duggan farewell, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and in honoring his devotion to our country and community.